Statement

Steps taken by the government to maximize procurement of rice in KMS 2007-08

(i) The MSP for rice was fixed at Rs. 646 and Rs. 675 per quintal for Common and Grade 'A' variety respectively for KMS 2007-08, an increase of Rs. 65 per quintal, in order to encourage farmers to grow more rice.

(ii) The Commission to Societies and Self-Help Groups undertaking procurement of paddy on behalf of the FCI/State Agencies, etc. has been allowed at a maximum of 1.5% of MSP.

(iii) The Government has announced a bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over and above the MSP of Rs. 645 per quintal for 'Common' and Rs. 675 per quintal for Grade 'A' variety of paddy respectively.

(iv) In paddy, the percentage of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevil led grains has been increased from 3% to 4%.

(v) Export of non-basmati rice-below Minimum Export Price of $425 per MT has been banned.

(vi) A notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 27.11.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases paddy (in terms of rice) or rice beyond 10,000 tonnes during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 (October-September) shall furnish a return to the Secretary, Department of Food of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. If the overall purchase of rice in the country exceeds 25,000 tonnes (in terms of rice), a return in prescribed format is to be filed with the Department of Food & Public Distribution of Central Government. The concerned State Government with which returns are filed will submit a consolidated monthly report to Central Government.

Production of sugar related products by sugar mills

†2000. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides sugar, other related products are also produced in the sugar mills of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such products;

(c) whether Government has arrested the cost and quantity of such products being produced with sugar in the sugar mills to make proper assessment of the financial position of the sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the estimated quantity of sugar and other related products and the cost thereof with one tonne of sugarcane having produced with 10 per cent recovery?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The names of related products, which are main bye-products in the manufacture of sugar, are molasses, bagasse and press mud.

(c) and (d) The quantity of these bye-products being produced with sugar depends upon the cane crushed by the sugar mills; as such, the production of these bye-products in a season would depend upon the production of sugarcane and quantity of sugarcane crushed in a sugar mill. However, the production of molasses, bagasse and press mud varies in the range from 4.2% to 4.5%, 30% to 33% and 3% to 5%, on can crushed, respectively. Since these bye products are obtained in the process of a manufacture of sugar, it is not possible to indicate their cost of production separately.

Import of wheat

2001. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import of wheat being made by Government during the current year indicating sources of such imports and process followed therefor;

(b) whether import of wheat is contemplated the next year too;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of wheat procurements made by Government agencies last year and in the current year;

(e) the reasons for wheat imports during 2006-07 and 2007-08 and planning for next year; and

(f) the details of wheat production estimated for 2006-07 and 2007-08 indicating volume of procurement made by Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the current year (2007-08), Government has decided to import 23 lakh tonnes of wheat for the Central Pool out of which orders have already been placed for import of 16.485 lakh tonnes. Out of this, 5.11 lakh tonnes of wheat has been ordered at weighed average price of US $325.59 per tonne C&F (FO), 7.95 lakh tonnes at weighted average price of US $ 389.45 per tonne C&F (FO) and 3.425 lakh tonnes at weighed average price of US $ 400.19 per tonne C&F (FO). The import of wheat is done against the global tenders and the tenderers are free to quote wheat of any origin, which meets the tendered specifications.

The import of wheat is done following established rules and procedures. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) and MMTC are Government of India undertaking which have been authorized by Government of India to float tenders. They float global tende which are published inleading newspapers and are also posted on their websites. Th tenders are opened in the presence of an inter-ministerial committee and the tenderers. Then the tenders are evaluated and recommendation is made by STC/MMTC to the Department of Food & Public Distribution/Department of Commerce, who after thorough examination and considering other relevant factors take decision in this regard. The decision of the Government is then conveyed to STC/MMTC for further necessary action.